

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 30+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department and is not legal advice. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Hello Readers,

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them!

Happy Summer Readers! Do you know where your kids are and what they are doing?

Q: Jeri from Settler's Way writes: Hello Chief Jenks. It was very nice to meet you at the Fireworks show on Sunday. We have only been in Anna for 2 months and I have a question. Can you tell me if it is legal to talk on a cell phone while driving in Texas? Thank you!

Hello again, Jeri and welcome to Anna.

It is against the law to drive in a school zone and use your cell phone. Otherwise, it is legal in Texas, but not recommended, to talk on the phone while you drive (unless you just got your license—there's a time limit).

There are some drivers out there that have to multi-task as they drive. Ambulance drivers, Firefighters, and of course Police Officers. Radios, lap tops, and cell phones help them do their job. But, many among us are just not multi-taskers. Weaving, slow driving, rear-end collisions, and other symptoms of what used to be indicative of drunk drivers are being regularly exhibited by sober technology consumers!

My view is that when behind the wheel, safe driving is your responsibility and should be your first priority. Scientific research on the subject of wireless phone use and driving has been conducted worldwide for several years. According to the NHTSA, the available research indicates that using a wireless phone while driving degrades a driver's performance, whether it is a hands-free or hand-held device. NHTSA advises that the "safest course of action is to refrain from using a cell phone while driving." (nhtsa.gov, click on traffic safety, then on drowsy and distracted driving for more information).

Reminder: Outdoor Storm Sirens Tested (weather permitting)

First Wednesday of the month @ 12 noon.

***Phone numbers: Dial 911 in an emergency.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov